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NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 18.

TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-Two cotton warehouses in Liverpoo were destroyed by fire yesterday. - American securities were in demand in England, ---- The offices, private boxes and wardrobe of the Staut Theatre in Vienna were saved. - Mr. Gladstone gave his opinions on political affairs in Eugland. A meeting of the Dynastic Left was held in Madrid to discuss the future policy of the party. The Malagassy Government has made new overtures of peace to France.

Congress.-The Senate was not in session yesterday. - The House passed some bills reported by the Judiciary Committee. No quorum was present.

Domestic.-It is reported in Washington that Senator Anthony intends to resign soon. The condition of the crops in the Northwest is promising - Frost fell in Pennsylvania yesterday morning. The Chicago markets were dull, ---- W. W. Smith, the banker of Washington, Penn., explained his connection with the firm of Grant & Ward. === The Methodist General Conference voted againt the licensing or ordaining of women as preachers.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-Wall Street resumed its usual appearance yesterday; there were no failures and no excitement. = == The receiver of the Newark Savings Institution reported a deficiency of over \$1,000,000, === The third spring meeting of the Meadow Brook Hunt took place. === The Coaching Club drove to Hyde Park in Mr. Roosevelt's coach. === The New-York baseball nine lost its first game this season. - The new rewing course at Oak Point was opened. Culumbia College held a field meeting. The Brooklyn Young Republican Club took action in reference to the Nutional Convention. - Mr. Mapleson sailed for Europe. = == Mr. Elwood failed to establish his claim for damages against Mrs. Langtry. Dock Commissioners denounced Senator Kiernan's resolution. --- The corner-stone of the New-York Cancer Hosital was laid. === The American Cricket Team sailed for England on the City of Rome. = C. McCulloch Beecher & Co., of No. 41 Wall-st., failed with liabilities of \$300,000. Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41212), 81.97 cents. Stocks were feverish and fluctuating. but the tendency of prices was upward and the closing was strong at the figures.

THE WEATHER-TRIBUNE local observations indieate warmer, clear or fair weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 64°; lowest, 40°; average,

Persons leaving town for the season, and summer travellers, can have THE DAILY TRIBUNE mailed to them, postpaid, for 75 cents per month, the address being changed as often as desired. THE DAILY TRIBUNE will be sent to any address in Europe for \$1 35 per month, which includes the ocean postage.

Boston is hoping for some improvement in the character of its Board of Aldermen, through the operation of a new law creating Aldermanic districts. Unless the experience of that city is different from that of New-York, no improvement will follow such a change. Here we are anxious to abolish the district system. It has proved an entire failure.

The Methodist Conference has again refused to license women to preach or exhort. There was the usual discussion over the subject, one member stating that he came from a State (Massachusetts) in which there are 60,000 more women than men, and that they must have something to do. Probably the women might find it advantageous to send some of their able speakers to argue the question before the Conference.

All our readers who take any interest in the rivalries of the race-course, the ball-ground, the cinder track or the watery plain, will find much to attract and retain their attention on the tenth page of THE TRIBUNE this morning. There the picturesque and exciting steeplechases of the Rockaway Hunt are described, as well as the gallops of the mettled racers that are preparing for the Withers and the other great contests at Jerome Park. Freeland's victory in the Dixiana Stakes at Louisville is recounted. The departure of the American Cricket Team to meet the passed masters of the wicket on the other side of the water is described, and there is much matter of unusual diversity and value concerning athletic games, paseball play, rowing and the long list of sports. The New-York Club suffered their first defeat in the baseball championship series yesterday, but they have made so good a start that the hopes of their friends will not be seriously dashed.

The public will not view the approach of hot weather with the usual complacency when it is generally known that the price for ice for the coming season is to be advanced. Just who are to blame for this unpleasant change is not clear. put up at auction. If that board performs its as they can pursue their old ways they will pre-The companies say they have not altered the | duty no street railroad will be allowed on | fer to do so. So long as they are supplied with | State. He also contends that extradition treaties

are told by the delivery man that they must pay hope of intelligent action in the City Hall. more. Certainly there is no excuse for a higher schedule so far as the great ice companies are concerned. Last winter was an excellent one for ice. There was much cold weather and labor was cheap. An advance under these circumstances will cause much just complaint; and as usual the poorer classes, who have to ement-houses, are the ones that will suffer most

The mistake in the popular judgment in England which the Government has made in dealing with the Egyptian question has solidified the Conservatives and greatly strengthened the prospect for a dissolution of Parliament. The Franchise bill is doomed, if it reaches the House of Lords; as the Tories will oppose it on the ground that it is an incomplete measure, not providing for a redistribution of seats. This proves to be the secret of the course of the Parnellites in voting to overthrow the Gladstone Ministry. Knowing that the Franchise bill will fail, Mr. Parnell is convinced that he can expect no more from the Liberals, and he turns against them. It will be a pity if a Ministry which has endeavored to do so much for Eng-land in the way of reforms shall be overthrown because of mistakes in Egypt. But no person can fail to admire the character of a man like Mr. Gladstone, who persists in doing what he thinks right though clearly against the popular will.

The Philadelphia city authorities have shown more enterprise, in the adoption of the police patrol system, than have the authorities of this city. Under that system an officer remains on his beat and when he makes an arrest he sends word, by the use of electric signals, for the patrol to come and take the prisoner to the station. It is also a ready means of securing assistance at any point, the patrol officers being equipped with wagons ready to start at a given signal. The system has been used successfully in Chicago for some years and has recently been adopted in Philadelphia, where it promises excellent results. The Police Commissioners talked of employing it here, more than a year ago, since which time nothing has been heard of it. The Commissioners expressed the opinion that it wou'd greatly add to the effectiveness of the police force; and would render unnecessary a large increase in the number of men. But instead of asking for authority to adopt such a plan, the Commissioners have favored the bill which has been rushed through the Legislature directing them to appoint 500 more men. Even the Mayor's "Cabinet" has declared against the bill. It ought to be vetoed.

THE ALDERMEN AND SURFACE RAILROADS In making the Mayor independent of the Aldermen in filling vacant offices, the Legislature deprived the latter of much of their power for mischief. But they retain control over many important public interests, and their capacity for harm is still great. A fresh illustration of that power is about to be given in the action of the Board on the applications for street railroad franchises. Without radical changes in the framework of laws governing this city, no General Street Railroad act could have been enacted that would meet the requirements of the constitution, and at the same time deprive the Aldermen of the right to pass upon street railroad franchises. Hence in this important matter the interests of the city are at the mercy of the Aldermen. The fear of their betrayal of the rights of the people, in acting upon questions relating to the use of the public streets, has been one of the principal reasons operating at Albany to defeat, since 1875, legislation on this subject. There appearing to be no way of getting around that difficulty, a law was passed this year which will enable the Aldermen to give the consent of the city for the use of every one of its streets and avenues for horse railroads. The Mayor can veto the resolutions that majority of whose members probably do not pay a single dollar in taxes, will have the right to give away to private corporations public franchises worth millions of dollars; and may at the same time greatly depreciate in value the property of large taxpayers. It stands to reason that such a system is wrong.

The law, however, does not place it entirely in the power of the Aldermen to grant street railroad franchises. Before any road can be constructed the consent must be obtained in writing of the owners of one-half in value of the property bounded on the street. But there is a curious provision in the law which says that "the consent of the local authorities" (the Board of Aldermen) " shall operate as the consent of such city, as the owners of any property. " that such railroad may be constructed upon any "street by which such property is bounded." It is further provided that in determining the value of one-half the property bounded on any street the value of the city property "shall be " ascertained and determined by allowing therefor the same price or value as is shown to be " the value of the equivalent in size and frontage "of any adjacent property on the same street." If this means anything it means that city property is to be accounted the same as other property in making up one-half in value of the property fronting on any street to be used for street railroad purposes. This may be shown by the applications now before the Aldermen for franchises to construct surface roads on Fifth-ave, and Broadway. One company proposes to build a road on Fifth-ave., from Washington Square to the Harlem River. If the Aldermen grant this franchise it is proposed in making up the value of one-half the property to take in a part of Washington Square, the whole of Union, Madison, and Reservoir Squares and Central Park. If that construction of the shall rejoice. If it cannot, at least let us keep law holds good the Aldermen will have the right to give over that street to a private corporation. But it is doubtful if such a construct thrown away. This seems to be a case in tion will agree with the constitution, which which no bread is better than half a loaf, provides that the consent must be obtained " of the owners of one-half in value of the property "bounded on, and the consent also of the local "authorities having control of a street," The question will be one of great interest to people living on Fifth-ave.

franchises under the new law. They propose to ingly divergent. Mr. Ingalis held that in order construct forty miles of surface railroads, to make Indian education effective the Indians Three different corporations are asking for ought to be made amenable to the laws of the the use of Broadway. The Underground Railway United States. Mr. Dawes held that before Company, now that the Arcade scheme has making the Indian amenable to the laws be fallen through, proposes also to build the tunnel road under Broadway, for which it has long held a charter. The Cable Railway Company still claims a legal existence, notwithstanding the repeal of the Rapid Transit Act. Many of these schemes must fall through, as it is not the Indians from this practice. It was also likely that the consent of enough property owners can be secured, or in lieu thereof the nothing, and boarding-schools were advocated. consent of the General Term of the Supreme Court. But no reliance can be placed on the Aldermen. They have the sole power to fix pear to produce the results expected. But so the terms of a franchise. They can say long as the Government supports the Indians it whether or not a charter for which a million is doubtful whether they will take kindly to the dollars can be obtained shall be given away or new modes of life urged upon them. So long

THE SAVINGS BANKS.

All the city savings banks have come well out of the recent excitement, and it is not too much to say that this fortunate result is largely due to the stringency of the law which governs their operations. The absolute prohibition of specuswelter through the summer in crowded ten- lation to all bank officers indeed has been shown by the events of the past week to be most desirable, since it is clear that men cannot be trusted in such positions upon no better guarantee than that of their private judgment. In the case of the Newark Savings Institution disaster appears to have been incurred through the disobedience of the bank officers to the order of the Chancellor. It is no sufficient excuse in such a case to say that the brokers with whom they deposited the Government bonds had a standing which justified implicit trust in their integrity, nor is it a justification to represent that the profit which was the immediate incentive to the deposit was for the benefit of the bank. The Chancellor had issued orders which it was the plain duty of the bank officers to follow, and had they done so the institution would have been on its feet to-day. This failure again shows the danger of trusting to private judgment, and the necessity of hard-andfast rules which shall simply render it impossi ble, without incurring criminal responsibility, to jeopardize the funds of savings institutions.

It is to be regretted that the unintelligent panic of a great number of poor and ignorant depositors in the city savings banks, mostly foreigners, should have led to the sacrifice by them of the half-yearly interest on their deposits. Some of the bank officers appear to have thought this exhibition of blind distrust rather amusing, but considering that the interest on their deposits, however small, is of serious consequence to thousands of the patrons of the savings banks, the loss is really vexations, and the more so since it was wholly unnecessary. The depositor could be protected against himself in cases of this kind by adopting the rule of notice of withdrawal. This has the advantage of giving time for inquiry, and for the passing of ephemeral excitement. In the present instance it would have prevented the loss of interest to a great many poor people, and would have saved even the appearance of a strain upon the banks. The encouragement of saving is so important, viewed solely as a publie policy, that the law cannot be too careful in depositors; and when, as in this city, a large campaign. class of depositors consists of foreigners of neryous and excitable temperament, ignorant of American methods, prone to suspicion and apt to run together like sheep, and follow the first against themselves.

THE COPYSIGHT BILL. The Publishers' Weekly proposes that the authors and other friends of an honest copyright law, who have been supporting the Dorsheimer bill, should abandon their resistance to "a moderate manufacturing clause," and consent to an amendment contining the benefits of international copyright to books printed in this country. The reason assigned for recommending this surrender is that certain traders in Philadelphia and elsewhere are so hotly opposed to giving a foreigner his own property unless they can first make something out of it, and that the vested interest in literary piracy is so strongly represented in Congress, that "extreme views" are not at present likely to be adopted. Let the authors be reasonable, there fore, says The Weekly, and take what they can ret. Hereafter they can ask more.

We hope that no friend of international copyright, of fair play, of international justice, will assent to any such proposal. The scheme of amendment now brought forward is what we tional copyright law with the manufacturing engaging in any such enterprise. It is better that piracy should not be protected. Let the unauthorized reprinters cut one another's throat, and by and by honest authors may come to their own. For this reason, among others, We dissent entirely from the opinion of The Publishers' Weekly that the "first step," which it advises will be better than nothing, and will not interfere with something more valuable made by the United States Government hereafter. This proposed "first step" is a step to British remonstrances in regard to dynain the wrong direction; and if it is taken we shall have to begin the reform all over again with fresh obstacles against us. We shall create a new class of vested interests opposed to a true international copyright and increase the disinclination of the average Congressman to bother himself about a business which apparently does not touch polities. What is more, we shall give a quasi-sanction to piracy by statute. The worst that can be said of American law now is that it will not interfere to prevent a palpable wrong. But the moment it decrees that a wrong shall be treated as a wrong only under certain arbitrary conditions, it be

comes an accomplice in the injustice. The demand for international copyright is treated as a claim for authors. It is the claim of all men who love and understand justice. and are sensitive about national honor. We trust that there will be no compromise, no surrender, no faint-heartedness. If the Dorsheimer bill can be passed at this session, we ourselves in a condition to try again, and the discussion of the past winter will not have begu

INDIAN EDUCATION.

There was an interesting debate in the Senate on Indian education, when the Indian Appro pria ion bill was up. The opinions of Senators who had visited the reservations and seen the Already there are eight corporations seeking educational machinery at work were bewildershould be enabled to read them. Mr. Ingalls replied, and with force, that this was a new doctrine: that all sorts of foreigners who could not read the laws were made amenable to them. and that there was no good reason for excluding complained that the Indian day-schools lead to

No doubt Indian progress is slow, and the reforms which have been undertaken do not ap-

Indian nature. All men require pressure to

modify their habits. If the Government made work the condition of partial subsistence, or supplied only the means of production, and discouraged nomadic pursuits in all possible ways, the more intelligent Indians would perhaps take more kindly to the changes demanded of them. As regards education, no doubt Indian children going from the day-schools to the tribe have a difficult rôle to fill, but not more difficult than that of the children of the very, poor in great cities when they are trying to get an education. The elevation of the Indian is of course difficult. That, however, should have been realized from the beginning. But if all the general conditions of the Indians were the same as those encountered by thousands of deusely ignorant foreigners who come among us as emigrants, is there any sound reason for doubting that the Indian would in at least two generations rise as far as these immigrants habitually do?

Cut them off from the nomadic life altogether. Make them work for their daily bread as all other Americans work." Make them citizens. Bring them under the laws. Sweep away the rifl-raft of vicious white men that always gather around the skirts of the reservation. Give the Indians free contact with the better elements in our civilization; and then let them take their chances with the rest. If they have any staying power this policy would bring it out. Certainly it would stimulate their energies and their wits, rouse them from their sluggishness, create in them rational ambitions and give the rising generation of school-bred Indian children relief from the degrading and thwarting influences now opposed to them.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DYNAMITE,

American responsibility for dynamite outrages is discussed temperately and judiciously in the current number of The North American Review. Professor Henry Wade Rogers, the writer of the leading article, approaches the subject in a commendable spirit of fairness, conceding at the outset that Irish Home Rule is an honorable and a just cause, with which the American people naturally sympathize, This cause he is careful not to confound with the barbarous and inhuman agencies of assassination and dynamite, and hence he can discuss without prejudice or partisanship the question whether the United States authorities are under guarding both the property and the interest of any obligation to interfere in the dynamite Professor Rogers takes up the English pre-

cedents beginning with the Orsini case. The arrangements] for that plot were made in London, and the bombs were purchased in promptings of their apprehensions, they should Birmingham by an Englishman. At one time not be allowed to suffer because of their want and another associations have existed in of knowledge, but should be protected even London for the purpose of supplying men and money in aid of revolutionary plots; but this fact "affords no reason why New-York should "be permitted to become a store-house for the " political incendiarism of foreign States," Even if Orsini's confederate went unpunished, and London has often been the headquarters of plots against other States, fthere are several English precedents which Americans are bound to consider. During the Civil War Mr. Seward complained of the alleged manufacture of Greek fire" at Windsor, Canada, to be used by Confederate emissaries in attempts to burn American cities. The British Govern ment acted upon this complaint, and the Canadian authorities adopted measures to prevent the manufacture of Greek fire. The State Department salso directed the attention of the British authorities to the plot for intro ducing yellow fever into Northern cities by means of infected clothing, and Dr. Blackburn was arrested by Canadian officials. The evidence against him, however, was so weak that the charges could not be pressed. In each case the British Government took active measures to repress these outrages. That Governhave been expecting, ever since Mr. Dorsheim- ment has also punished its own citizens for atmen have a settled habit of overriding a veto er's measure was introduced. We have been on all such questions. Thus a Board, the expecting it as a trick of the piratical party to turn to their own advantage a bill intended to sinate their rulers. For example, John Parry remove a grave reproach from our country and | was punished in 1799 for libeling the Emperor to give authors their plain rights. An interna- of Russia iu a London journal; Jean Peltier was convicted in 1803 of inciting the French clause attached to it is nothing but an arrange- people to revolt against the First Consul; Lord ment for protecting one pirate against all rival George Gordon was prosecuted for libelling the pirates. The United States has no reason for Queen of France; and Herr Most, in May 1881, was sentenced for inciting the readers of his journal to assassinate foreign sovereigns.

Only two of these precedents, in our judg ment, are directly applicable to the dynamite outrages. The "Greek fire" case offers a close we wish to see no half-way delusive reform. parallel, and the arrest of Dr. Blackburn evinced a disposition on the part of the Canadian authorities to repress atrocious crimes against civilization. The only response mite has been; the circular of March 12, 1884 in relation to the shipment of dangerous explosives. It must not be for gotten however, that Mr. Seward furnished the British Government with definite information respecting the Confederate plots, whereas Lord Granville has never done this in the dynamit conspiracy; and how can the American courts be expected to punish the whisperings of Fenian desperadoes in hall-bedrooms, when the Canadian officials found it impossible to proceed against Dr. Blackburn? So far as the libel precedents are concerned, three of them are too antiquated to be seriously considered, and the fourth is not applicable to the ravings of the Irish-American press. The proceedings against Herr Most have been condemned in England by public sentiment and form a startling exception to the usual license allowed to the press. But even the Freiheit was definite in its invitations to murder, whereas the dynamite press never singles out any Englishman. if it were good policy to prosecute the Irish-American press for soliciting subscriptions to secret funds and extolling the political virtues of dynamite, it would be impossible to apply the English precedents and secure conviction. The libels and incitements to crime would be too vague and indefinite to warrant a press trial even under English law.

Returning now to Professor Rogers's paper, we find that the only Federal statute which can be brought to bear against the dynamite conspirators is that relating to the illegal transportation of dangerous explosives. The Government in its circular of March 12, 1884, has exhausted the resources of United States law, The Federal courts can only punish those offences which have been made criminal by direct Acts of Congress, by the Constitution or by international treaty; and the machinations of the dynamite conspirators are not included in the list of punishable offences. Let an English or an American detective overhear in a hall-bedroom or a back alley the details of a deliberate plot against life and property in England, and there is not a court in the United States that can inflict punishment for the offence. On this account Professor Rogers pleads for a change in the neutrality laws whereby it may be made an offence against the Government of the United States for any one within its jurisdiction to conspire against the lives and property of the citizens of a foreign

schedule of last year; and yet many bouseholders | Fifth-ave. But unfortunately there is little | the means of subsistence they will see no motive | should include among extraditable of flences would be of the highest importance, and if followed by the leading nations of the world would afford mutual sprotection against dynamite and anarchy.

RAILWAYS IN THE DESERT.

General Meigs, the greatest authority on military railway construction in the United States, returns in another column to the Soudan question. He'shows that the Mexican Contral Railway has been laid at the rate of nearly a nile a day, and asks why the British Govern ment cannot do as well, or even better, between the Red Sea and the Nile. They would have to do much better than this in order to rescue General Gordon. The distance from Suakim to Berber is 250 miles, and General Gordon cannot be expected to hold his ground 250 days. One thing, however, must not be forgotten. The news that the British were building such a railway would travel fast. Before the first section of fifty miles could be completed, the Souianese on the Nile would be convinced that the British were in earnest, and they might be disposed either to declare for General Gordon or to disperse quietly.

General Meigs says nothing about the climate of the Soudan, which would probably prove a greater obstacle to railway construction than the engineering difficulties. Major Clarke, who has had great experience in railway building in India, ridicules in the London press the idea that the project is impracticable on account of the heat. He has built railways with a mean monthly temperature of 92 degrees Fahrenheit, night and day, and laughs at the excuse that it will be too hot during the summer to proceed with this work in the Soudan. Well-informed experts in England are confident that such a line would not only prove of the utmost importance in a military sense, but would ultimately be a profitable enterprise, since 100,000 tons of freight already finds its way down the Nile.

THE RED SUNSETS.

The Revue des deux Mondes for May has an intersting article on the recent red sunsets by M. J. Jamin, member of the Academy of Sciences. M. Jamin undertakes to demonstrate that the volcanie theory of the phenomenon is the true explanation, and he brings together much corroborative evilence, derived from optical and chemical science and from the records of the past. The conclusion cached by him is that the eruption of Krakatoa was one of the most important manifestations of vol canic forces the world has known; that the magnitude of the forces then put in motion readers it entirely eredible that an immensemass of volcame ashenixed with watery vapor was propelled from Kraka toa to a height probably almost co-extensive with the units of the earth's atmosphere; that this dense nass of fine and principally microscopic ashes floated above or on the surface of the atmosphere as oil floats on water, and that it was gradually diffused by the air currents until it had become visiole over nearly three-fourths of the earth's surface. To the objection of the advocates of the cosmical heory that some traces of this volcanie dust ought to have been found on the surface of snow some where, M. Jamin replies by adducing evidence that it has actually been found, and at points consider-

ably distant from one another. He also produces a strong argument from analogy by citing the case of a similar eruption which oc arred on an island in the Mediterranean in 1831. In that case the same peculiar optical phenomena were noted, and for two months red sunsets and unrises were observed, not only in various parts of Europe, but also on the continent of America. He refers further to the contemporary accounts of that eruption of Vesuvius in A. D. 79 which resulted in the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeil to show that the same aspect of the heavens was then visible, though naturally it was not ascribed to the true cause. The objections against the duration of the phenomena are net with careful reasoning showing the possibility of the persistent flotation of the extremely attenunted matter composing these clouds of mingled ashes and vapor. It may be said that parts of M. Jamin's argument appear to conflict some what with Professor Nordenskiöld's theory of cosmical dust, it seeming possible that the Professor's supposed meteoric dust may have been of the same nature as the volcanic ash clouds. The article is strong showing indeed for the volcanic theory, if it does not altogether settle the question

A London dispatch says the late Judah P. Benjanin left no materials for a biography, believing that "the treasuring up of old papers created half the misery of life." Certainly in this respect the late Judah P. Benjamin must be said to have set a good example; and indeed with the awful warning f certain recent biographies and autobiographies before him he may well have been deterred from leaving behind him any temptations to similar posthumous calamities. In these days lives of great men all remind us that obscurity is the most pre tious boon vouchsafed to those who not great, and that immortality is hardly worth having if those who have joined the majority are doomed to know how they are handled by their biographers. The last of posthumous fame must be greatly subdued by the modern practice of putting our prominent peoples' souls upon a psychological dissecting-table, and publishing illustrated catalogues of their vices and feibles as soon as the breath is out of their bodies. It is in truth a custom which has added a new terror to death, and which will do more to discourage the Religion of Humanity than all the arguments Mr. Spencer can devise. Mr. Benjamin has put his condemnation on the fashion most seasonably, and it may be hoped that his example will prove influ-

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, in The Woman's fournal, takes issue with those who assert that the New-England stock is deteriorating, and, on the strength of information imparted to him by "one of the most eminent physicians in this region," declares that "the thing really to be auxious about just now is not the physiological condition of the English, but of the Irish, stock in America, from the rapidity with which pulmonary weakness is developing itself among the Americanized Irish." Now, if only this "eminent physician" will give facts and figures in support of this statement, as the upholders of the other view have already done, the public mind will be thrown into a fine state of confusion and be wildermont; and it will then be in order for a third school to artse, whose mission it shall be to demonstrate how it is that while both the native and foreign stocks are thus rapidly declining, the population (outside of immigration) continues to increase almost precisely as though the agencies of national destruction were not in operation at all.

Should a final location for the route of the Nicaragua Canal not be decided upon by September 30 next, the concession granted by Nicaragua to American citizens will pass beyond our control. As Congress has not even discussed the subject of granting an act of incorporation, we shall have no eason to complain if the canal is finally taken up ov citizens of another Power. Since the publication of Rear Admiral Ammen's book on the subject in May, 1880, further surveys have been made, which through an improved section, reduce the estimates for material and labor to \$41,000,000. The commission which made its report in February, 1876, and of which Admiral Ammen was a member, insisted on a contingent as great as the estimates. Admiral Ammon recently remarked in Washington that he should not be supprised to see the canal completed on a contingent of fifty or sixty per cent, including interest on the money now paid in; that is to say, a total cost of from \$60,000,000 to \$70,000,000. If the Government really auxious to promote the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, all it has to do fs to pass an enabling act to take a majority

of the stock and control the work as a stock holder, appointing its superintendents of construction, its auditors of accounts, and thus secure its interests and those of individual stockholders.

TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

NO MORE EXPERIMENTS. Louis Spuder, of the Comedy.-"A Handom Shat" to doing better than we expected when we read the first night's criticisms. The public seem to like it, despite the "taying-out" it received. We are looking forward to Gus" Williams making a hit with his new play, "Capain Mishler." It is a sort of sequel to "One of the Finest." He plays ten weeks, and then we shall put in an attraction of our own. The Comedy Theatre is better adapted for plays that have already been prosunced successes than for new and untried productions We shall try no more experiments.

ABOUT RACE TRACKS.

Charles Wheatly, secretary of the Saratoga Racing Association. - I see that there has been considerable alteration of race-tracks for this season. Concy Island has been remade, and there have been extensive changes in Monmouth Park. The latter course wanted it hadly, for there was in one part a descent of twenty-four feet, which was exceedingly hard on an immense horse like Eole, hat covered twenty-five or twenty-six feet at every stride. He is so hard to get into condition that he has to run many of his races in the apring and summer partig green, and coming down that decline at a very fast pace did his fore feet no good, besides shaking him up generally. That is how Monitor beat him. The jockey George Lorillard's old horse rattled down the descent he hard as he could go, so that Eole was all abroad. The alterations in Sheepshead Bay were, in my opinion, scarcely wanted, for it was always an excellent track, nd it may be that they may not have changed for the etter. The idea of lengthening the finish was quite correct, and will, no doubt, be a great gain, but they may ind that the changed angle of the course will prevent the ecopie in the Grand Stand from seeing as much as they ud before. But they are progressive men, these, and hey are bound to have an excellent course, and whatever changes may be found necessary will be made to a certainty. Jerome Park is a very picturesque course, and no alteration could be made there without destroying the picturesqueness. I think rasing men are generally agreed that Saratoga is a very good course, and there are many who think it the best in America.

NO WRITTEN CONTRACTS.

Dion Boucleault-I never have any written contracts with my company. I tell them that if they can better themselves they are at liberty to go, provided they give me a week or two's notice. Usually they stay. Miss Martinot left me because she thought it was prejudicial to her career to play Moya a whole season. In a month she wanted to come back, but I had already put my aughter into the part and said "No, no." If Mrs. Langtry discharged some of ner company in Chicago and did ot pay their fares to New-York, as is said, she was wrong, but I am sure it was done by her agent and not to her own knowledge. It is the custom of the profession to bring the members of the company home after the end of the season.

THE NEW LOCAL PLAY.

Charles Frohman, here and there. -We produced "Tha tay night has so many other attractions and we wished to have the best sort of a house. Madane Janauschek's nanager absolutely refused to give up the last night when I asked him, but Mr. Morris wrote to the madame herself as a "young dramatist" and she freely gave up se theatre. Dave Braham composed a new overture for the occasion, called "Ecuous of New-York."

EVIL EFFECTS OF GRAIN SPECULATION.

Julius L. Osgood, of Chicago, attorney.-Reports are avorable for the fruit and wheat crops. The farmer night be happy in this prospect if the speculators were ill dead. As it is, he had much better have plenty of ruit than a large yield of grain. The fruit can be canned ad preserved. The wheat he can't sell. Speculators have rained his market. It is the work of the Produce exchanges, so called, that has driven the price of wheat tolts present position and cut off the farmer's foreign markets. Corners and corners everywhere! I expect to hear of corners in coffins next, and then a corner in emeteries.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Wendell Phillips is seriously III. Gladys, Lady Lonsdale, will take Mr. Edgar Vincent's name as well as his hand, and be known as plain Mrs.

The Rev. Arthur Sloan, who was recently obliged to give up the rectorship of Christ Episcopal Church, Stratford, Conn., because of his belief in "faith-cures," will soon begin religious work in thus city.

Mr. Blackmore, the novelist, is an eathusiastic gardener, and prefers to talk about his garden, rather han his books. "I tried to talk of noveltsts," says a reent visitor, "and he spoke of the ravages of slugs among his strawberries; of literature generally, and he told me how he dealt with the marguding blackbird among the cherries." He does much of his writing late at night.

City Chamberlain J. Nelson Tappan was worse on Friday night, and his condition was such as to cause appreneusion on the part of his family and relatives. day and last evening he was better. His attendant physician thought there was no immediate danger. His dis-ease is water around the heart. Precautions are taken to prevent any undue excitement.

At Problis, near Dresden, was recently dedicated the first monument ever erected by a single Saxon village community to one of its unpretending members. It was a memory of Georg Johann Palitzsch, who died in 1784 after leading the life of a piala farmer. But he was the first discoverer of the Halley comet in 1758, and of the freeh water polypus, and he tutroduced lightning-reds into Dreaden, and potatoes into the country along the

M. Lingard, the nost, and owner of the Villa des Vic ettes, Cannes, says that the Duke of Albany had super untural warnings of his approaching end two days be his astonished partner that he had come to the end of his his astonished partner that he had come to the end of his lease of life. The Duke said that between sleeping and waking, on the morning of Tuesday (his decease took place on the morning of the Friday following), his sister alice came toto his room to tell him she watched over him, and that he was soon to be with her and other kindred spirits in a sphere where all was peaceful happiness.

PORT DOVER, Out., May 17 .- Secretary Lincoln, General Sheridan, General Stager, John McCullough, General H Tompkins, Bishop McLaren and fifty others crossed over from Sandusky on Thursday and are fishing at Peles

BITS OF CRITICISM.

No First-Class Fiction.—The lull in the production of first class fiction, and, indeed, of good literature generally, is very striking. There are books coming out without end, some of them good books, accres of them reaching a fair average of originally, and adding their quota of knowledge or of enjoyment to the general store; but nobody gives us enchalming books—above all, enchantmentations. It is partly accident, we dare say, the reading world standing by to watch one of those intervals which divide literary periods, and give second-rate men their long-hoped-for chance; and we know that a year, or even a decade, is as short a time in the history of interacture as in the history of a people or of a time of tree. But suppose it should prove otherwise! There have been long luis in English direrary history—and the Americans are English, and for a century and a haif produced in literature next to nathing. The English world is growing American, reading newspapers insatiably, learning to waton foreign politics as Americans to, as if they were operas performed for their amusement, or, worse sailf, firsts in the areas, and distenting to the whole world with a thirsty curbosity which is not cambiling, or, at all events, is not considerly to any such concentration of thought as new production requires.—[The London Spectator.

Another Song to the Same Tune.—No first-rate novels are written nowadays—no novels, that is, which every one reads as they once read "Pendennia," or "Eamond," or "Never Too Late to Mand," or "Band Cash." The nosance of those is a real loss to life. The most strenuous of intollectual toilers likes to unbond his mind, to divert his thoughts into a different channel by taking up in his odd moments a novel that really interests him. Why should it be that he has such difficulty in finding a novel of that sort no w! It is perhaps partially due to the fact that authors of flotion appear first to the regulation Madie readers. These are composed mainly of women and young persons of both sexes, whose minds are not too highly silucated, and whose takes are so very materately fastisions that they are satisfied by a glamor of assheticism thrown over the trite incidents of everyday life.—[The London World.

EMERSON'S DEFECTS.—Mr. Morley is far too much of the trained scholar not to perceive certain defects in Emerson which are inseparable from the haif-educated thinker. We do not use the phrise to imply that Emerson had not the training of the English public school—which might have been a very doubtful advantage—but that he obviously belongs to an intellectual atmosphere in which the highest standards of thought and style are not sufficiently appreciated. One often doubts whether to admire or to smile at a quality in Americans which in its better aspect appears as open-mindedness and freedom from conventional projudices, and in its worst arbeet as an ignorance of certain sound estimates of traditional culture. We admire the independence with which thay will express their estimates of any of the objects of conventional idelating—a Greek atatus of a Gothle cathedral; but we are a little shocked when we discover that they really do not perceive the difference between Phillias, for example, and the last new American sculptor. The freshness of judgment is combined with a certain grudenes. Emerson, in this respect, is a true American. He gives his ophiton of the greatest men, a Plato or a Gothle continuous. But it is equally clear it might have been more satisfactory if he had more thoroughly assimilated the thoughts of previous thinkers. His judgments often reaccuble those of a very promising had at cellere, who has still not become imband with the great composition vectors. So, as Mr. Meeley observes, Emerson is always spanking of Plato, but evidently does not quite always spanking of Plato, but evidently does not quite EMERSON'S DEFECTS .- Mr. Morley is far too